

State Control Centre - Situation Report

1800 hours - Saturday, February 08, 2014



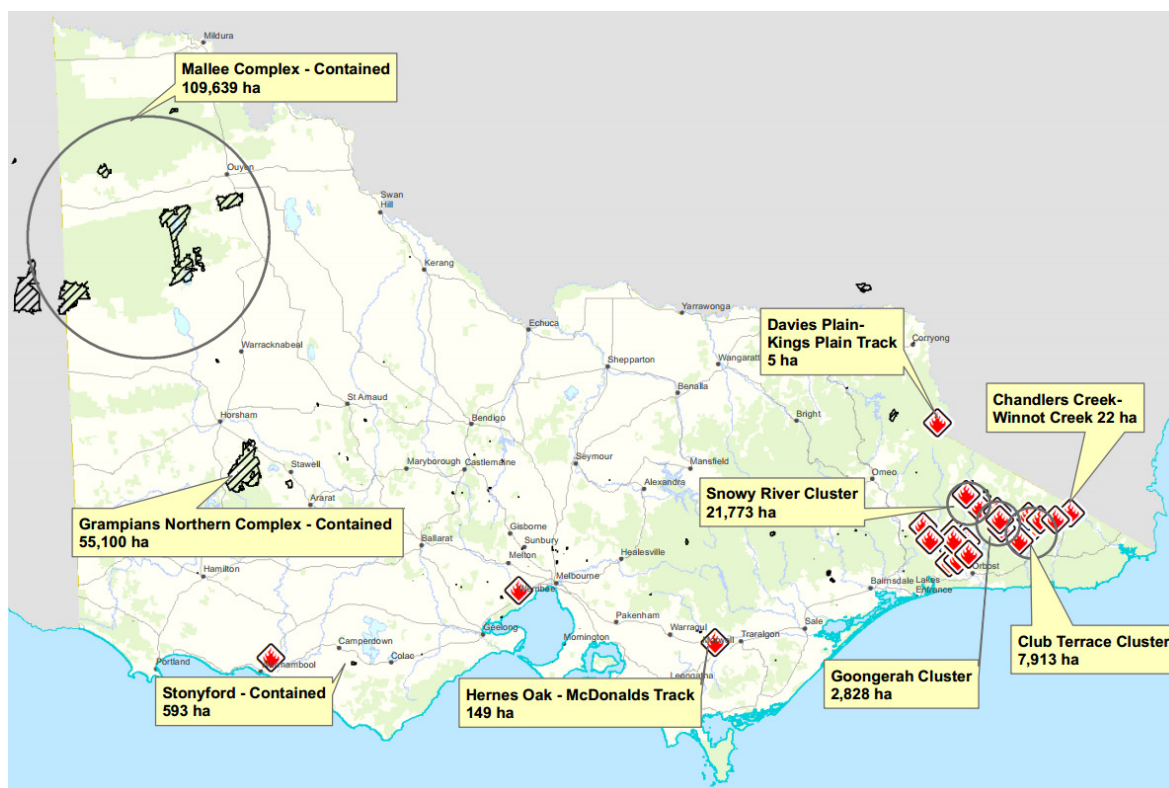
Purpose

This document provides an overview of activity (readiness and response) for the Victorian Emergency Services. All statistics listed are for the 24 hour period to 1700 today and details fires and other incidents. The significant incidents listed are those that have political, economic, social and environmental impacts for the community, agencies and / or the state.

State Overview

- 25 going bushfires and grass/scrub fires as at 1715 hours
- Ten parks are closed and access is limited to a further eight parks
- Current estimated resources for fires listed in this Situation Report (sourced from Incident shift plans at 1600 hours 8/2/2014)
 - Personnel – 1063 DEPI/CFA/Other
 - Appliances (DEPI) – 40 Tankers, 108 dozers, 176 slip-ons, 21 aircraft
- Regional mutual support arrangements remain in place for IMTs and strike teams and task forces
- Approximately 117 personnel from New South Wales, Queensland and New Zealand are continuing to assist Victorian fire services across the state in fire-fighting, operational support and liaison roles.

State Map



Focus on Next 48 Hours due to Elevated Fire Danger

A day of Total Fire Ban has been declared for the whole State of Victoria for tomorrow, Sunday 9 February 2014.

Fire Danger ratings for Sunday are: **Extreme** for Northern Country, North Central, North East, Central, West & South Gippsland, East Gippsland, **Severe** for the Mallee and Wimmera, and **Very High** for South West districts.

A severe weather warning has been declared. Damaging winds are expected in Central, North Central, North East and West & South Gippsland districts tomorrow.

Impact on going fires:

Ongoing fires in Gippsland present a major concern as hot and windy weather forecast for the next few days may cause issues for control of existing fires.

There is continued monitoring for new fires that may have been started by lightning last night.

There is an elevated risk of fire tomorrow and many public events are occurring, please refer to the following website for more information: <http://www.visitvictoria.com/Events/Major-events>

Key Messages

A Heat Health Alert was issued for Saturday 8 February advising of heatwave conditions for the following districts: Central, North Central, South West, West & South Gippsland, Northern Country, Mallee and Wimmera. Temperatures are expected to remain high into Sunday. Individuals and organisations are being encouraged to monitor local conditions and respond accordingly.

For the latest information on Heat Health Alerts visit www.health.vic.gov.au

Current Warnings and Community Information

Calls to VBIL - yesterday total	650	Notes:	Nil
Calls to VBIL - midnight to 1700 hrs today	442	Notes:	Nil
Current VICSES Warnings at 1700hrs	0		

Fire Agency Warnings in last 24 hours to 1700 hrs			
Advice messages	73	Watch and Act messages	29
Emergency Warning messages	2	Emergency Alert messages	2
Recommendation to evacuate	2		
Community Meetings in last 24 hours to 1700 hrs			
Planned	0	Conducted	1

Three relief centres are operating to support East Gippsland communities at Orbost, Cann River, and Delegate (NSW).

Significant Incidents

GIPPSLAND

Orbost ICC

Lightning strikes through Gippsland last night have resulted in multiple new fires, currently of these new starts there are 12 fires still currently GOING. These are:

- Buchan – Davidsons Lane
- Buchan – Jacksons Crossing Trk
- Buldah – Mt Peterson
- Combiobar – Hensleigh Creek Rd
- Orbost – Garnett Track
- Orbost – Joe Creek
- Orbost – Long Point
- Orbost – Raymond Creek – Moorsford Road
- Orbost – Silvertop Track
- Orbost – Wombat Creek
- Orbost – Yalmy Rd
- Timbarra – Gil Groggin

These fires are currently small, however some are already fast moving. Direct attack is underway where possible with aircraft and tankers. There is a high potential for increased spread if first attack fails.

CLUB TERRACE CLUSTER

- **3 GOING** fires within this cluster: Goolengook River; Combiobar – Misery Spur; and Combiobar – Errinundra River - **7,974 ha** combined
- Air surveillance and treatment of hot spots to continue. Monitoring using fire towers and aircraft.

GOONGERAH CLUSTER

- **4 GOING** fires within this cluster: Joys Creek; Mt Jersey; B A Creek; and Ellery Track – **2,735 ha** combined
- Emergency warning issued at 1809hrs for Goongerah and Martins Creek. Relief centres are open, there are some road closures along Bonang Road, McKillops Road and Yalmy Road.
- Mt Jersey fire continues to burn out to control lines. Fire to be allowed to burn out to control lines to be contained
- For Joys Creek, B A Creek and Ellery Track fires crews direct attacking by building containment lines where possible
- Containment is to roads, gully lines, dozer lines & existing tracks
- Patrolling and blacking out hot spots continues
- At least another week of blacking out is required

SNOWY RIVER CLUSTER

- **2 GOING** fires within this cluster: Mt Gelantipy – Musk Creek; and Goongerah – Deddick Trail – **20,351 ha** combined

Goongerah – Deddick Trail

- 75% of the fire perimeter continues to be actively spreading
- The two spot fires to the north have now joined, this fire is now 374 ha in size
- Asset protection assessments are underway in the Deddick and Bonang Valleys in case the fire takes a major run with the strong winds expected in the next 24 hours

Mt Gelantipy – Musk Creek

- Fire is active on multiple edges. The northern flank has crossed Minchins Ck and is progressing up Deddick Range towards Mt Deddick. Active fire at Mt Gelantipy continuing to develop and spread east. On SE flank fire is progressing towards Goongerah-Deddick Trail fire and expected to join late today or tomorrow. Fire has not crossed Snowy River to west except for spot reported previously which has been suppressed.

CHANDLERS CREEK – WINNOT CREEK

- 10KM NNE of CHANDLERS CREEK – **23 ha GOING**
- Crews online consolidating edge and blacking out
- Numerous hazardous trees, crews treating trees as appropriate

Bairnsdale ICC

DAVIES PLAIN – KINGS PLAIN TRACK (*being managed out of Swift's Creek*)

- 47KM NE of BENAMBRA – **5 ha GOING**
- Air surveillance this morning identified some smoke plumes within the fire area. No active fire edge.
- Both DEPI and NSW ground crews continued consolidation of fallback lines.
- Reliance on air attack due to steep terrain with large fire-killed ash and dense regrowth unsafe for crews on ground.

*Traralgon ICC***HERNES OAK - MCDONALDS TRACK (CFA fire – Newborough Brigade)**

- Fire nearly fully tracked except 30m of grass on highway area. Spot over full tracked.
- A number of areas of active fire behaviour (predominately on the south side of the Freeway); strike teams are focusing on these.
- Princes Freeway now open with 60km an hour speed restrictions and a reduced number of lanes
- Trains are running (other than in respect of scheduled works)

BARWON SOUTH WEST*Colac ICC***STONYFORD (formerly SOUTH PURRUMBETE – SCOLLERS ROAD)**

- 4KM SOUTH of POMBORNEIT – **593 ha CONTAINED**
- Numerous hot spots are being picked up through aircraft surveillance on the fire edge.
- Fire is burning into peaty soils in and around rocks.
- Loss of livestock, fencing and a rural building.
- Road closures and speed restrictions are in place.

OTHER INCIDENTS:*Geelong ICC*

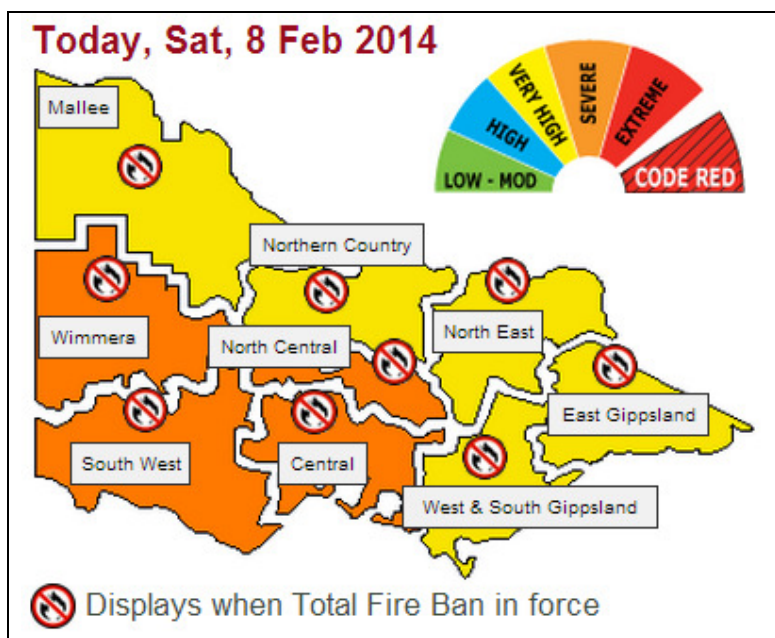
- **Gas leak** from gas station in Corio
- Uncontrolled leak of natural gas
- Technicians on site trying to rectify the issue
- Princes Highway closed in both directions between Geelong Ring Road and School Road
- Rail line expected to be closed

LODDON MALLEE*Mildura ICC***MALLEE CLUSTER**

- Combined area of **109,639 ha**, fires now all **CONTAINED** or **UNDER CONTROL**
- Crews continue to patrol and black out.
- 6 parks remain closed

GRAMPIANS*Horsham ICC***GRAMPIANS – NORTHERN COMPLEX**

- 11KM SW OF DADSWELLS BRIDGE – **55,100 ha CONTAINED**
- Fire has not expanded over the past week
- Crews continue to patrol and black out.
- Air reconnaissance undertaken with no smoke observed.
- Traffic management points replaced with road signs, some roads and parts of park still closed
- Hazardous tree work continues.
- Halls Gap Jazz Festival on this weekend



Fire Danger Rating and Weather Forecast

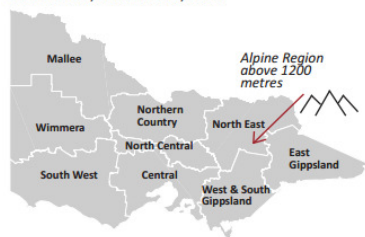
Sunday 9 February 2014	Monday 10 February 2014	Tuesday 11 February 2014
<p>Public Fire Danger Rating (FDR)</p> <p>5pm 11am Estimated location of wind change</p>	<p>Public Fire Danger Rating (FDR)</p>	<p>Public Fire Danger Rating (FDR)</p>
<p>Hot at first over most districts with freshening north to northwesterly winds, locally strong and squally over central and eastern districts. A gusty cooler southwesterly change in the west early in the morning, moving to central districts and the northwest by late morning then extending into eastern districts during the afternoon. Isolated showers in the southwest with and following the change.</p>	<p>Fine and mainly sunny. Mild to warm in the south, warm to very warm inland. South to southeasterly winds, moderate to fresh in the south.</p>	<p>Fine and generally sunny. Very warm to hot in the north and west but milder in Gippsland and near the coast. Light to moderate southeasterly wind and fresh afternoon sea breezes.</p>

Severe Weather Outlook







(Issued Tuesdays and Fridays)






SEVERE WEATHER OUTLOOK

Issued Friday 7th February 2014



The purpose of the Severe Weather Outlook is to identify severe weather in the form of heavy rain leading to flooding and/or damaging wind gusts associated with low pressure systems. It is not intended to provide guidance on severe thunderstorms, which are best captured by the daily issued Severe Thunderstorm Chart.

	Potential for 'low-end' severe weather event associated with rainfall leading to minor to moderate flooding and/or damaging wind gusts reaching 80-100 km/hr.
	Potential for 'high-end' severe weather event associated with rainfall leading to moderate to major flooding and/or damaging wind gusts reaching 110 km/hr+.
	Wind event
	Rain event (one drop ~ 20-50mm; two drops ~ 50-100mm; three drops ~ 100mm+)
	Riverine flooding event
	Thunderstorms forecast. Check the daily issued Thunderstorm Chart as to whether thunderstorms are likely to be severe.

DISTRICT	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Mallee					
Wimmera					
South West					
Northern Country					
North Central					
Central					
North East					
W & S Gippsland					
East Gippsland					
Alpine Region					

Weather Situation

- Risk of thunderstorms today through Central, North Central, North East, West and South Gippsland and East Gippsland.
- A trough currently in the west of the State will move eastwards today and may generate afternoon thunderstorms in the districts listed above. Any storms that do develop are unlikely to turn severe due to limited middle level instability.
- This weekend is expected to be critical for fire weather with very hot conditions expected across the State on Saturday, little relief overnight with temperatures remaining in the mid-high 20's and then northerly winds strengthening ahead of a strong and gusty southwesterly wind change Sunday morning and afternoon.
- While northerly winds with gusts of 80-100km/hr are possible about the more elevated areas of the North Central, Central and West and South Gippsland (including the Alpine area), at this stage it is marginal as to whether a Severe Weather Warning will be required ahead of the change.
- Behind the change, wind gusts up to 50-70 km/hr are possible.
- No thunderstorms are expected with the change although there is a risk behind the change in the South West due to the movement of an upper level trough. It remains a small risk.
- No severe weather is expected in the first half of next week with conditions stabilising behind the trough.
- Expect temperatures to return to +40 degrees in the western and central parts by next Wednesday.

The Severe Weather Outlook is prepared Tuesday and Friday mornings based on the latest guidance from several global and local weather models. This information is prepared by the meteorologist in the State Control Centre to assist the State Emergency Service with preparedness and is not to be distributed without permission.



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology



Occupational Health and Safety Considerations

The State Fire Controller highlighted important safety considerations ahead of this weekend.

- Forecast high winds heightening the risk of trees and tree limbs falling on the fireground.
- IMT's are to ensure that:
 - hazardous tree stands are identified
 - weather or wind changes are constantly and frequently communicated to the fireground to enable firefighters/personnel to access safe areas in a timely manner
 - consideration is given to using air attack and heavy plant machinery which is fitted with 'fall on' and 'rollover' protection
 - safe fall back areas on the fireground are identified.

Workplace health and safety continues to be a priority and is reinforced with Incident and Regional Controllers and during daily briefings.

- Fatigue and heat related illness and exhaustion.
- Working around transmission lines.
- Increased insect activity and risk of bee stings due to increasing temperature.
- Smouldering logs, hazardous trees and checking for hotspots.
- Driving hazards.

SCC Arrangements for tomorrow

SCC Activation Level	Tier 3 (Red)	CFA Agency Commander	Joe Buffone
State Fire Controller	Craig Lapsley	CFA State Duty Officer	Tony O'Day
Deputy State Controller (Rostered)	Alan Goodwin Peter Rau Euan Ferguson Trevor White	DEPI Agency Commander	Andrew Graystone
State SES Controller	Tim Weibusch	MFB Agency Commander	David Youssef
SCC Duty Manager	Steve Riley	SES Agency Commander	Leanne Simpson

Authorisation

Signature:	Craig Lapsley, State Controller
Time:	

NOTE: A signed copy of this document is retained at the State Control Centre.